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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

CARNEGIE MUSEUM PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Andrey Avinoff Director

November 5, 1936

My dear Rachel:

It was most thoughtful on your part to send me the butterfly book which bears so much the imprint of the mid-Victorian age, when it was written and published. In my entomological library I do not have many publications on European Lepidoptera, and your volume will not only find its place on my shelves but it helps to renew my earliest recollections of the butterflies of our own country side in Poltawa. There is one plate, for instance, portraying Pieris daplidice which happens to be connected with my earliest experiences in butterfly hunting. My cousin was a very fine artist, and was especially proficient in still life painting. I think I was about five years old at the time when she was decorating the top

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me to catch a white butterfly that was hovering over the flower beds. I managed to capture it, and when the next day she instructed me to obtain another specimen I was struck by the fact that it was dissimilar in pattern. I think it was my initiation in recognizing that white butterflies may be different after all; and perhaps that slight episode sealed my entomological destinies of the future. So as I look at Plate X of the Morris volume, the old story comes vividly to my mind.

Cordially yours,

Agr

Mrs. Roy A. Hunt